

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
a motherboard to have a chipset coupled thereto;  
~~a memory to store a sequence of instructions, the memory coupled with the~~  
~~motherboard; and~~  
a riser card coupled with the motherboard, the riser card having a circuit thereon that interacts with a corresponding portion of the chipset to provide a functionality to the system, the riser card also having a memory to store one or more indications of the functionality, wherein the riser card operates as a logical extension of the motherboard and provides an external interface for the motherboard; and  
a memory to store a sequence of instructions, the memory coupled with the motherboard, the sequence of instructions to cause a driver to be loaded based, at least in part, on the one or more indications.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the riser card is coupled with the motherboard via a slot interface having pins corresponding to one or more predetermined industry standards.
3. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the memory of the riser card is a read-only memory (ROM) and a boot sequence is a basic input/output system (BIOS).

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the functionality comprises one or more audio codecs.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the functionality comprises one or more modem codecs.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the functionality comprises support for one or more Universal Serial Bus devices.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the functionality comprises support for one or more SMBus devices.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the functionality comprises networking functionality.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the driver is loaded by an operating system.

10. (Currently Amended) A riser card comprising:  
an interface to allow the riser card to be coupled with a motherboard having a chipset coupled thereto, the motherboard further having a memory coupled thereto to store a sequence of instructions to cause a driver to be loaded based, at least in part, on one or more indications of a functionality provided to a system, wherein the riser card

operates as a logical extension of the motherboard and provides an external interface for the motherboard;

a circuit that interacts with a corresponding portion of the chipset to provide the functionality to the system; and

a memory to store the one or more indications of the functionality.

11. (Previously Amended) The riser card of claim 10 wherein the riser card is coupled with the motherboard via a slot interface having pins corresponding to one or more predetermined industry standards.

12. (Previously Amended) The riser card of claim 10 wherein the memory is a read-only memory (ROM) and a boot sequence is a basic input/output system (BIOS).

13. (Previously Amended) The riser card of claim 10 wherein the functionality comprises one or more audio codecs.

14. (Previously Amended) The riser card of claim 10 wherein the functionality comprises one or more modem codecs.

15. (Previously Amended) The riser card of claim 10 wherein the functionality comprises support for one or more Universal Serial Bus devices.

16. (Previously Amended) The riser card of claim 10 wherein the functionality comprises support for one or more SMBus devices.

17. (Previously Amended) The riser card of claim 10 wherein the functionality comprises networking functionality.

18. (Previously Amended) The riser card of claim 10 wherein the driver is loaded by an operating system.

19. (Currently Amended) A memory comprising an interface to couple with a riser card, the riser card having a circuit thereon that interacts with a corresponding portion of a chipset to provide a functionality to a system, the memory to store one or more indications of the functionality, wherein a driver is loaded based, at least in part, on the one or more indications of the functionality, and the riser card operates as a logical extension of the motherboard and provides an external interface for the motherboard.

20. (Previously Amended) The memory of claim 19 wherein the riser card is coupled with a motherboard via a slot interface having pins corresponding to one or more predetermined industry standards.

21. (Previously Amended) The memory of claim 19 wherein the memory is a read-only memory (ROM).

22. (Previously Amended) The memory of claim 19 wherein the functionality comprises one or more audio codecs.

23. (Previously Amended) The memory of claim 19 wherein the functionality comprises one or more modem codecs.

24. (Previously Amended) The memory of claim 19 wherein the functionality comprises support for one or more Universal Serial Bus devices.

25. (Previously Amended) The memory of claim 19 wherein the functionality comprises support for one or more SMBus devices.

26. (Previously Amended) The memory of claim 19 wherein the functionality comprises networking functionality.

27. (Previously Amended) The memory of claim 19 wherein the driver is loaded by an operating system.